

Olive Trees

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JUNE, 1920

No. 6

A MONTHLY MISSIONARY JOURNAL
Published by The Board of Foreign
Missions of the Synod of the Re-
formed Presbyterian Church of North
America in the interest of Mission Work

THE ANNUAL REPORT

This issue contains the report of the Board of Foreign Missions and also the reports of several of the missionaries. It is prepared with a view to putting into a single number the most important missionary information of the year, and will, we are sure, be read with unusual interest. Also it will be worth preserving, especially by those who, either at home or abroad, are engaged in the advancement of the missionary cause.

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OLIVE TREES

A Monthly Missionary Journal.

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE
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THEOLOGICAL



R. M. SOMMERVILLE, D.D. MRS. R. M. SOMMERVILLE
DR. SOMMERVILLE founded "OLIVE TREES" and edited it for 29 years.

OLIVE TREES

A Monthly Journal devoted to Missionary Work in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

VOL. XXXIV

JUNE, 1920

No. 6

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS TO THE SYNOD OF 1920.

The Board of Foreign Missions comes to the Synod to report on one portion of the Church's work. Administration may be divided but the work of Christ is one. This Board has sought to carry forward during the year the portion entrusted to it by Christ and the Church.

With profound gratitude to God we report that the crisis which overtook the missions was met by the Church. World conditions threatened to bring chaos in both our finances and work. It became apparent that much more money must be raised than the sum appropriated by Synod. For a time we were threatened with the necessity of bringing some of the workers home. Happily the appeals to the Church were most generously met and we are grateful to God that we have thus far been able to keep them at their stations. Worn and weary some are now in America for furlough and others must come soon. In Latakia, Cyprus and Mersina they are calling for re-enforcements. The school in Cyprus is growing so as to make another worker seem necessary. In Latakia especially they are left very

short-handed. Vital interests will suffer unless re-enforcements can be gotten to them by autumn.

At the November meeting of the Board it was decided that steps could not be taken this year to open up a station in Yunnan. The increased cost of operations alone made this decision necessary, and some of the field force were either already, or soon to be, on furlough. Native port are increasing so rapidly that workers and the spirit of self-supply may be possible to open the new station in the not distant future. As far as we can judge the embarrassments caused by depreciated currency and inflated prices of goods have not seriously hindered the work in China. Not only has the Lo Ting Hospital continued to be self-supporting but the congregation there has also paid its own way entirely this year. Tak Hing congregation, while not reaching the attempted goal, made laudable progress. All the schools and the out-stations in both districts, almost without exception, have made notable progress in "this same grace also." In general there is an opti-

mistic note from every field unless it be with the single exception of Asia Minor where political conditions remain so uncertain; and unusual success has attended the efforts in evangelism, education, native training, ministry to the sick, relief to the needy, and shepherding the flocks. Even in Asia Minor the schools were not closed a day by the war, and although the Turk offered mercy to all who would deny Christ, Mr. McFarland reports that, so far as they know, during the entire period of horror and persecutions unspeakable, not a single Christian purchased physical life by renouncing the faith.

In Cyprus the Academy continues to grow in influence and power, indicating that the foundations of the school were wisely laid. The return of refugees to other parts reduced the attendance a little but the local attendance is larger than ever this year. When Mr. Smith and Mr. Tweed were detained from reaching Cyprus until the middle of November Mr. Weir showed his real worth in laying hold of doubled and trebled tasks, until they should arrive, he knew not when. Through sheer self-mastery and generalship he held the school and teaching force together until gossiping tongues, asserting that the Americans were deceivers and quitters, were silenced by their arrival; and the Academy early in December swung into its stride and has registered the best year in its history. Mr. Weir's enthusiasm and estimate of the school's prospects are indicated by these words: "I shall be loathe to leave her next summer. It is a work that has gripped me to the core. I would not exchange with any man living. But it is necessary to go home to get better prepared for the future. Really we have not come near to the limit of development here yet. I can see nothing but bright prospects for the future. It is worth any man's best efforts." As is true of a successful school anywhere the Academy has now reached that stage of its development where it must per-

force either expand or lose its opportunity. With Mr. Weir returning to America this summer, another teacher becomes imperative, for, although Rev. Walter McCarrroll should return as Head Master of the school, the evangelistic work must be neglected unless Rev. Alvin W. Smith be given more liberty for this department. To it he earnestly desires to give the major portion of his efforts. The shortage of the teaching force made necessary the discontinuing of the girls' school which had been conducted two years or more. It is greatly missed and much needed. The crying need now is for founding a girls' school on the proper basis. Christian missionary education goes limping on but one foot whilst the boys only are educated. It is even more imperative that the wives and mothers of the future homes be given Christian training—and it is more stragetic. The Rev. Alvin Smith writes: "There is no good school in all the island for girls and no place where training in English can be secured except rarely at the convents. Calls are coming in from many quarters from English, Armenian, Syrian and parents of other nationalities for some school where they can send their girls and know they will be in wholesome surroundings and will receive training of the highest quality." A girls' school could be founded in a suitable building near by the Academy, thus enabling the teachers to give part time to the girls. The initial expense would not be large. The project would require the sending out of one young woman as a teacher and it is thought that ere long the school would prove self-sustaining, except for the salary of the teachers. Thus, to hold and wisely use what has already been attained would seem to require some advance. The board would welcome the advice of Synod.

Last year we were able to publish in the June number of OLIVE TREES a letter from Rev. J. S. Stewart, summing up the fortunes of the Syrian

field during the period of the war. In the Synod number this year will be found a similar letter from the pen of the Rev. A. J. McFarland, giving a most instructive and heartening account of the work in the Tarsus field for the same period. It shows that in a wonderful way God cared for his people and his cause. Not less surprising is the record of the incredible amount of work that was kept going almost unabated during those trying days. Of the ninety-nine members of the church when the war began all can be accounted for without the loss of one by defection, eighty-six being

hospital more than 100 beds, and all occupied, while many beside received treatment at the daily clinic." The interest and surprise continue when one reads on and notes the large amount of evangelistic work kept constantly under way, and the fine fidelity of the native evangelists, bravely remaining at their posts—or in the instance of one, banished but later returning with faith unshaken and loyalty to Christ undiminished. The relief work, since the armistice, has been rather fully put before the Church in the prints. Mr. McFarland's summary will be of permanent



S. A. S. METHENY, M. D.
President.



F. M. WILSON, D. D.
Corresponding Secretary



JOSEPH M. STEELE
Treasurer.

still connected with the church while the others removed out of the bounds of our church or died in exile. Six years ago 400 were in the schools, and during the war this number for most of the time was actually increased. When one reads Mr. McFarland's account of the hardships and persecutions to which these people were subjected, the mind is filled with amazement that the work of the Lord continued to prosper under such conditions. Dr. Peoples and Mr. McFarland performed almost superhuman tasks, and that without flagging year after year. In spite of the brutal tyranny and constant interference of the Turkish officers, "great numbers of the poor slaves from the Turkish army received all the help which our skillful Dr. Peoples and his efficient Armenian nurse could give them under these untoward circumstances." "Part of the time there were in the

value and record. So eagerly have our people read every line from our brethren in the Syrian field that it is thought unnecessary here to attempt even a brief review of their work for the past year.

The requirements of these fields for the immediate future are submitted to the Board in the findings of the Joint Conference of the Levant Missions of the Scotch-Irish and American Reformed Presbyterian Churches, which was held in Latakia March 9-15 of this year. Their conclusions were reached after much prayer and a careful survey of the needs of each station. They are laid before the Boards of the Churches across the water and your Board "as embodying," to use the language of the report, "the minimum requirements necessary to meet the demands of the fields."

1. For Latakia Field.

Latakia Center:

Equipment—Extensive repairs on buildings, estimates to be submitted.

New buildings—Missionary residence, completion of proposed plan, hospital site and building.

Personnel—Additional physician, nurse for hospital, lady missionary for Girls' School, short term teacher for Girls' School, Head Master for Boys' School, Department for workers' training under J. S. Stewart.

Suadea Station:

We recommend to our respective Boards the transfer of the Suadea Station to the Scotch-Irish Board to be connected with the Antioch field, and we believe that a missionary doctor and a lady to act as superintendent of schools are necessary to man the station.

2. For Alexandretta Field:

Equipment—School building and completion of mission home.

Personnel—Lady missionary teacher, short term lady teacher.

3. For Antioch Field:

Owing to the fact that Antioch could not be represented at the Conference, the needs of this field are not presented.

4. For Mersina Field.

Mersina Center:

Repairs on present building, boys' boarding school, site and building.

Tarsus Center:

Equipment—Buildings suitable for school and church, hospital building and physician's residence.

Adana Centre:

Building suitable for school and church.

Personnel—Head Master for Boys' School, lady missionary teacher, additional physician, nurse for hospital.

5. For Cyprus Field:

Owing to the fact that Cyprus was not represented at the Conference, the needs of the field are not presented.

6. That repairs on present buildings should be regarded as urgent and arranged for at once.

7. That our Boards be reminded that funds will be needed for the "Forward Movement" among villages of the Fellaheen in the whole field represented in this Conference as fast as workers are available and conditions permit.

This report is signed by S. Edgar, R. E. Willson, J. M. Balph, S. H. Kennedy and Miss M. B. Edgar. These recommendations commend themselves to the Board as wise and necessary. The Synod is asked to authorize the Board, in consultation with the mission, to decide the order of precedence in the items recommended, and proceed to the program as fast as may seem wise and the funds are available.

We suggest that Synod authorize the transfer of the Suadea Station to the Scotch-Irish Board. The repairs on the buildings at Latakia and Mersina; a missionary residence and a hospital at Latakia; Boys' Boarding School at Mersina, to be known as a memorial to J. French Carithers; hospital and physician's residence at Tarsus should be provided for as soon as possible.

In suggesting that this building program be authorized, the Board does not anticipate that it could all be carried to completion within the near future. Costs of material and labor, as well as all other considerations bearing on the project, would receive careful consideration by the Board and any part of the work would be entered upon only when mature

judgment would indicate that it would be wise to proceed. As for re-enforcements, the mission urges that a short term English teacher for Girls' School, a permanent teacher for Girls' School, a head master for Boys' School, an additional physician and a nurse are required for Latakia, and the same for the Mersina field. Not all of these can be sent out this year. Some of them should be sent at once. If the Synod approve, the Board will undertake to meet the imperative needs in the teaching force this year and the other demands later, and only as changing conditions and the receipt of funds shall warrant.

The working force on the Levant fields is the same as at last Synod except that the Rev. Alvin W. Smith and Mr. Ernest V. Tweed went to Cyprus, while Dr. Calvin McCarroll and family came home on furlough; the Rev. Samuel Edgar came home last summer and returned to Latakia in the late autumn; Miss Evadna M. Sterrett, having been married to Dr. James M. Balph, resigned from service in Mersina and went to Latakia; the Rev. A. J. McFarland and wife came on furlough early in March, and the Rev. J. S. Stewart and family are en route home as this report is being prepared. Miss M. Florence Mearns resigned from service in Latakia, starting to America with the Stewarts. The Synod will rejoice with our missionaries in the fact that three native evangelists have been ordained. The Syrian Commission met early in March at Latakia, and the licentiate of Latakia, the evangelist at Tarsus, and the one at Adana, were examined and ordained to the gospel ministry. Mr. McFarland characterizes them as men who "have shown much efficiency and faithfulness through many years of service." Writing after the meeting of the Commission, Miss Maggie B. Edgar, when expressing the need of two young women teachers to be sent out to Latakia at once, noted how encouraged they were all feeling by reason of the ordination of these evan-

gelists, and the beginning of the Bible woman's work in the city, which she had been wanting for so long. When Dr. Peoples leaves for furlough, Rev. R. E. Willson and family and Miss French will be left alone at Mersina; and at Latakia Dr. and Mrs. Balph, Rev. Samuel Edgar and Miss Edgar are now in entire charge. The church should support them in earnest prayer. Miss Mary E. Shanks, of Denver; Miss Elizabeth McElroy, of Quinter, and Miss Martha A. McKee, of York, New York, are under appointment to the Levant.

Before reporting on the year's work in China a few words may be said with reference to the personnel. Dr. James M. Wright and family, and Miss Ella Margaret Stewart, have spent the year on furlough; the Rev. Julius A. Kempf and wife returned to the field, and as announced to the Church, Rev. J. K. Robb was retained in this country. It was with deep regret to the Rev. E. C. Mitchell and wife that they were required to come home owing to the return of Mrs. Mitchell's illness. Although serious sickness overtook Miss Dean and Dr. Robb for longer or shorter periods, God graciously spared their lives and they are now restored to health and power for service. All those sent out two and three years ago respectively have finished their preliminary language study and have entered upon active service.

In spite of the disturbances which so unexpectedly and seriously overtook our work in China, the year now closed has been in many respects the most conspicuous in successful service. There seems unanimous agreement among the missionaries that spiritual experiences reached high water mark. All reports of the annual meeting in January agree that it was the best and most impressive they ever held. The Holy Spirit was present in power. The official account predicts that "the closing session on Monday evening, January 19, will be long remembered by all," and con-

tinues, "confession of sins and requests for prayer were made. The Holy Spirit was presiding." The president of the mission meeting "said he was helpless, and we were all deeply impressed by the presence of the Spirit." Their request of the church at home is, "Pray for us, for our work, your work and for China."

The placing of the work a year ago in the hands of committees has re-

voted to close it temporarily, and Dr. McBurney will devote herself for a time to itinerant work. Yet her readable report for the year scintillates with interesting accounts of successful gospel work. Successive trips into the country carried Dr. McBurney farther and farther afield. Everywhere China proves to be a land of widespread spiritual and physical disease. Meetings for prayer and con-



HOSPITAL STAFF AT LO TING.

Dr. Dickson is at the left of the picture, and beside him are the three most prominent members of the Board of Trustees. Miss Smith is standing just behind Dr. Dickson. Dr. Wallace is in the center at the rear, and Mrs. Dickson is at the right.

sulted in more effective operation in almost every department. The committees are taking their work seriously, as may be seen by the reports and plans published in the April, May and June numbers of OLIVE TREES. It is a matter of regret that the medical work in the Gregg Memorial Hospital is suffering a reaction. With a view to preparing the way for placing the hospital on a better basis, and putting responsibility for its support more fully on the natives, the mission

ference, some daily, some weekly, are held at the hospital with the object of saving the lost. The helpers have been diligent in witnessing and bear testimony that the patients are increasingly responsive. A good number gave evidence of saving faith, some having applied for baptism and three having been received into the church. The itinerant work opened many doors of which but few have yet been entered. "On every trip we are met with requests to go farther

afield," says Dr. McBurney. "We try to respond and that gives us call to go farther beyond."

At Lo Ting Dr. Dickson has had the help part of the year of Dr. Edna Wallace and Miss Smith. Patients in much larger numbers came the past year, more than 500 villages having been touched by the dispensary alone. The native hospital board placed itself on record as interested in the morals of the community by protesting strongly to the government against the debasing custom of gambling. The Leper Asylum, for which three acres of ground were donated last year, is now in the way of being founded. Dr. Dickson insists that the people themselves must provide it out of a sense of their own responsibility to their unfortunate brethren. The Governor of the province, Mr Wu Ting Fang, formerly Ambassador at Washington, and the local Magistrate have become contributors and solicitors for the funds.

Spiritual results are not lacking in the medical work at Lo Ting. "Quite a number of patients have declared their belief in Christ and registered as enquirers. Four whom we believe had a saving knowledge of Christ and were ready for baptism were called to their eternal home before this sacrament could be performed."

The educational work had a successful year in all parts. All our missionaries have now finished in the Canton Language School and are entering upon active service. The school for girls at Lo Ting was under the care of Miss Dean. Their new building of three stories, the gift of Mr. R. N. Redpath, of Olathe, Kansas, was completed and dedicated December 31 with Chinese educators and officials of the district present in the most cordial spirit to participate in the exercises. Before the close of the year all the girls in the school but four (and two of these were held back by unwilling parents) registered as believers and applied for baptism. And each believing girl is praying

and laboring for the salvation of at least one other girl of her acquaintance.

Miss Rose Huston's report of the schools for women and girls at Tak Hing is similarly thrilling. The enrollment in her women's school was 21 and in that of the girls' 58. "The past year has been one of joy and blessing, with just enough of the hard things thrown in to bring out the fullness of joy, and trust in the power of God. We have had the hearty cooperation of the teachers, and the wholesome Christian spirit that seems to prevail is due to the life and work and prayers of these teachers, who have had some rich Christian experiences.

We have had the privilege and joy of seeing five girls and one woman received into the church, besides six girls and eight women who have applied for baptism and who will likely be received at the communion January 11 and be reported next year. Every pupil in school who is old enough is either a church member or an applicant for baptism."

The Christian district schools are multiplying in outlying sections until in almost all directions these torches are shining in midst of the encircling gloom.

In some respects most important of all are the training schools. The reports indicate the same high standard of work set in previous years, and a large amount of active evangelism is done by the students. In such training lie the prospects for the future. The great need of all mission lands are native workers. And the persons conducting these draw their inspiration and encouragement not from registered conversions and baptisms but from the vision of trained native disciples a few years hence gathering a harvest of souls for Christ.

Perhaps deepest immediate interest centers in that department which in the more restricted sense is called evangelistic. On January 1 there were 585 communicants. There were dis-

pensed in the year 22 communions. There are 12 chapels, 11 regular prayer meetings, 11 Bible classes and 9 Sabbath Schools with an average attendance of 261.

It is fitting that something be said this year about an extension of one department of the work. While evangelism among women has been done almost from the beginning and is now one of the most important features in and about Tak Hing, Miss Nelle A. Brownlee was the first to receive appointment as a Bible woman. A year ago she confronted her task. When ready for service she determined to penetrate the regions beyond. Passing out far beyond the villages surrounding Tak Hing she found in a vast strip of territory reaching from Fung Tsuen, several miles above Do Sing on the west, to the extreme eastern limit of our territory, a field in which nothing was being done in the line of evangelism for women. At Do Sing she found women who, as girls, had come under the influence of Dr. Jean McBurney and Mrs. E. C. Mitchell, and were longing for more light. Proceeding with her survey she penetrated the districts on each side of the rivers in varying distances of from five to ten miles, visiting 30 villages or more, in all of which she and her companions preached the gospel, and in most of which they found people who had come into contact with the gospel through the medical work of Drs. Wright and the McBurneys. Thus the seed sown in former days is germinating and awaiting cultivation.

From her survey she concludes there are at least 100 villages in this territory with a population of from 75 to 1000 each. With the help of native women she has already begun permanent classes in some of these villages. Her breezy and bracing report, appearing in the June number of OLIVE TREES, is as readable as a piece of romance and indicates the wide open field before our Bible women.

It is reported that the winter has marked a distinct advance spiritually for the Christians in the Tak Hing district. "One of our preachers went home from the Goforth meetings and held a revival in his chapel, telling the people they must confess their sins. They had been doing nothing in the way of giving and were letting a boys' school close for lack of our support. After the meetings they subscribed enough to keep the school going," and other good results followed.

The ten men in the theological training school give half of the year to study and the other to evangelism in the outlying districts. For the encouragement and efficiency of all native workers a monthly conference was held. Besides three general evangelistic conferences for all workers were held, two in Tak Hing and one in Lo Ting. Dr. A. I. Robb spoke by arrangement of the Witness Committee, in the Canton Christian College to 400 students on Christ's Kingship; and in the summer vacation he discussed the same subject before the missionaries of the various boards at Cheung Chau Island. In July the Preachers' Conference of the Province, lasting two weeks, met in Canton Christian College and Dr. Robb delivered five lectures, one of which was on the subject of Christ's Kingly Office and claims on the nation. His observation is that "Chinese Christians generally receive this truth more readily than some others." This witnessing is reported in connection with the evangelism in the conviction that the two cannot rightly be separated. The amount of traveling throughout the districts must have been very large and the gospel has been carried into very many parts. The general plan of campaign is summed up in a paragraph taken from the report of the evangelistic committee: "Believing that the greatest good can be accomplished in our field at the present time by itinerating, both by missionaries and native workers, we urge that

preachers, teachers, physicians and nurses give all possible time to this form of work." In all their efforts, too, they are insisting upon self-support. Chapels are opened only where the natives are sufficiently interested to provide them; and increase in salaries of native workers, made necessary by increased cost of living, must be met by the native church.

In the Lo Ting district the Rev. E. C. Mitchell had charge of the congregation and seven other stations, three of the latter being now self-supporting. Many of them are building their own chapels and schools, and there has been in most stations an increase in membership. For three and a half months Mr. Mitchell had charge of construction of the girl's school building; he was on the committee that visited Yunnan. Nevertheless he looked after the preaching in all the stations, held Bible classes in the jail, dispensed eleven communions and baptized fifty-one persons in the year. His report is that "the work in the evangelistic department has been more encouraging this year than it has been at any time since we came to Lo Ting six years ago. The old stations are in better shape and new stations are being opened. We recognize the Lord's hand in all this and we praise him for it."

Last year the mission sent us an account of their pledge that by personal effort and prayer they would do all in their power to bring Christ to men and, if possible, lead 500 souls within a year to accept him. The church at home was urged to unite with them in prayer to this end. Many in the home land responded to this appeal. On the field there were many labors, prayers and searchings of heart. At different times throughout the year particular meetings were held with this purpose in view. Toward the close of the year the workers set themselves more earnestly and zealously to prepare for a time of reviving and ingathering. Convinced that the primary hinderance

to greater success lay in the lack of spiritual power in the lives of those who had already accepted Christ, arrangements were made to have Dr. Goforth come to Tak Hing and hold special meetings for the missionaries and converts themselves. These meetings were followed a month later by special evangelistic efforts at both Tak Hing and Lo Ting in which both missionaries and native Christians, revived and renewed by the previous meetings, set themselves to reach the unsaved. While good reports of the meetings held under the leadership of Dr. Goforth have come to us we are not yet informed as to the visible results of the meetings which followed. These facts will properly belong to the report next year, yet it is interesting to note that at the time of the annual meeting in January 101 had been baptized and 243 others had registered as believers. God only can count where this man and that were born; and when God the people counts, he doubtless reckons many unknown to men.

The Board notes the death of Dr. R. M. Sommerville, for many years the faithful and able Corresponding Secretary, which occurred February 3. He was a man of unusual powers and rare devotion. His love for Christ was clearly manifest, and his labors were so abundant as to be almost prodigious. He founded our missionary magazine, and was its sole editor and publisher until he presented it to the Board. His correspondence with the missionaries ever growing in volume, was said by them to be most helpful and inspiring. Few could have laid the foundations of our mission work on so broad a basis and not many could have carried such burdens in connection with his pastoral work and ministerial duties. His labors are over and his works do follow him.

Application was made by the Board to the Inter-Church World Movement for a share in the undesignated funds for missions. This we did after being repeatedly urged to do so by the lead-

ers in that movement, and on the assurance that they would be glad to include our entire budget in theirs and after the payment of the expenses of the campaign apportion a share to our Board for needed objects on our fields which we could not feel free to ask the church to provide for in addition to the other contributions it was making. The expenses of the movement are to be a first charge against the undesignated funds collected and the remainder is to be distributed proportionately among the co-operating Boards. Meanwhile in order that money for expenses might be borrowed from the banks, each Board gave a guarantee of 5 per cent. of its budget.

For many years the Board has been confronted with the problem of how best to provide for the educational work in the medical and nursing departments. Three years ago the question came before Synod in connection with the specific service of Dr. James M. Wright. Prior to Dr. Wright's leaving the field for furlough the mission appointed him to discuss this entire question with the Board. Miss Smith, registered nurse, is now ready for active service and the question arises as to the best method of employing her talents as a teacher of nurses. Dr. Wright and a number of the other members of the mission are present at this meeting of Synod. Believing that the Synod will be interested in hearing a discussion of these questions, it is recommended that the Court avail itself of the opportunity offered by their presence to have them set before it the entire situation. If the Synod agree to this proposal, the Board believes we might be enabled better to understand the requirements of the situation.

The Budget of the Board for next year has been itemized for submission to Synod's Co-ordinating Committee and requires an appropriation of \$..... to the Levant and \$..... to China.

The time for which Arthur A. Samson, McLeod M. Pearce, John W. F. Carlisle and R. A. Blair were chosen to the Board has expired. Synod should choose their successors. The Board requests that the Rev. S. J. Johnston be added to its membership.

For mission study these books are recommended: "The Near East, Crossroads of the World," by William H. Hall, of the Syrian Protestant College, Beirut; for the Intermediates. "Shepard of Aintab;" Story book for Juniors, "Fez and Turban Tales."

The Corresponding Secretary and the President have been appointed to represent the Board on the floor of Synod.

* * *

In view of the unusual world conditions, resulting in the increased cost of all our mission work, the Board will welcome the fullest counsel of Synod as to the manner it is desired that the Board undertake to meet the situation. What is the mind of Christ in these trying times? What does the Church wish the Board to do, confronted with a world, needy almost beyond precedent, suffering, humbled, plastic, teachable? The world needs the gospel. We have it. Christ has commanded that it be given to the world. He has the power. We are weakness itself. Yet he commands us to obey. The power to obey is the only power we possess. Will our obedience prove him a faithful or an unfaithful Master? We are apparently overburdened with manifold obligations. Can we by a lesser obedience to his last great command find a measure of relief from the load weighing down upon us? Should we, his soldiers, armed and carrying bows, turn back in the day of battle? Or are we now more loudly summoned to come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty? Do we believe in our God? Have we faith in our gospel? For what kind of a day and a need was the gospel given if not for these? This is a dark hour, and God

seems to be moving but slowly. But is God taken unawares? Must God wait? Is God straitened but in his own people? And dare we ever look for a better day in the world except as the church gives the world the gospel of salvation? Will waiting make the task any easier? Facing the Master today do we in doubt ask him John's question, "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?"

Your Board of Foreign Missions believes it has no desire to over-estimate any department of the one world work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord alone knows how to maintain and strengthen his church at home while it seeks to extend his work abroad. He alone has the power to save the church and make effective her testimony here and there. Shall we then still our troubled hearts to hear once more his pronouncement of the world-encompassing, heaven-sufficient remedy for the ills of a dying world? Peter reminds us it was not so long ago He spake and we should be able to hear distinctly what He said. "Forget not this one thing, beloved, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day."—2 Peter 3: 8. By this reckoning it was just the day before yesterday when the Lord Jesus held an interview with his people on earth. He had appointed the place of meeting and given them a few weeks to arrange for attending. At that council the Lord took into account the present unsettled state of the world, which is so disturbing to us. Among other things he reviewed to his mind the present political, industrial and moral conditions of Europe, Asia, Africa and America—and the other parts of the world. The seething passion, the turmoil, the chaos; the suffering and death; the hatred, strife and wickedness, following the great war, rose black and threatening and menacing before Him. He saw men in their madness and bewilderment killing each other. They were destroying the fruits of their years of toil and ordered life. They were

spoiling the fair face of God's world. He saw millions in distress, and thousands dying. He heard women wailing and children crying in their hopelessness. Crushed in their physical sorrows, men forgot they had souls. Immortals by the million were sinking into perdition. "There was no eye to pity and no hand to save." The reason for this appalling situation was that "Light had come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

Knowing His plan to meet the world's needs, Jesus Christ had summoned his people to the mountain in the Galilee. They were few in number—"above five hundred"—all there were in the world. Though they came, some of the few doubted that Christ could meet the need of their day; some even doubted Him. Nevertheless, knowing what the matter was with the world then, and foreseeing what the matter would be today, and knowing what must be done—the one thing needed, nothing more, nothing less, nothing other—"Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." The gospel of the Kingdom. The setting up of the Kingdom of God on earth. There is no remedy for this world's ills but Christ. "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth." Kingdom building at home and abroad; here and there and everywhere; until His will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. This is the sole and sufficient duty of the Church of the living God.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board,

FINDLEY M. WILSON,
Corresponding Secretary.

TURKISH EXCHANGE.

By REV. A. J. MCFARLAND.

Doubtless many good friends of Foreign Mission as well as others have been asking why loss in exchange should have had such a prominent part in producing the deficit which they have met recently so generously. Let us now consider the subject as it affects or has affected our Levant Mission.

Until the Germans succeeded in dragging Turkey into the war the money of the country was gold and silver, and bank notes or paper money were unheard of in the common transactions of the street. But on her entrance into the war Turkey followed the example of all the other belligerents and began issuing great quantities of paper money, and decreed that it was just as good as gold and any one failing to treat it as such would be punished severely. For a very short time it passed for almost its face value, but steadily depreciated as related to gold, until in some places it was worth only ten per cent. of its face value. And yet the purchasing power of gold was diminishing all the time, too; so our Board was quite justified in declaring that the missionaries should not be paid in a depreciated currency if they could prevent, which meant the missionaries should still be paid, as always, on a gold basis. And it would seem that with the standing of the U. S. dollar in the exchange of the world, all through the war, this ought to have been possible without much loss, for Turkish currency as measured by gold, we would have supposed, would have depreciated about equally as measured by dollars. But it didn't. Just why it didn't is not so evident. It would seem the immense demand for Turkish money by Germany to meet her financial obligations to Turkey kept Turkish money abnormally high in all exchanges. At least we know that at no time during the war could we

obtain the Turkish paper lera for less than \$3.00, even when it required ten of the paper leras to buy one gold lera, which was worth only \$4.40 normally. That is, it cost \$33.00 to buy a piece of gold which was worth \$4.40 before the war, and in purchasing power was worth even less than before the war.

As soon as the armistice opened up Turkey to the world, the paper lera dropped in all exchanges to about a third or less of its former war rate, but even then, I know of some remittances that came through the Near East Relief, which, when turned into gold, made the price of the gold lera more than \$6.00 when it ought to be \$4.40. Some loss in recent remittances has been occasioned by the decline in British exchange; but as arrangement has been made now to forward money in dollar denominations we can hope that serious losses will be avoided in the future.

Our Board Treasurer and other members of the Board who labored with him to solve this difficult problem are worthy of the highest praise and commendation. We do not see how any one could have done more than they have done to find the best way to transmit funds under the new conditions which arose and still arise. The Armenian and Syrian Relief, which were sending a quarter of a million dollars a month to Turkey for more than a year before the Armistice, had to meet these same conditions and suffer these same losses in exchange. My wife assisted in the office in Switzerland, through which these funds were transmitted, and reports that they were never able to secure Turkish drafts for less than \$3.40, and yet these drafts when turned into gold at their destination did not show better results oftentimes than in the example above mentioned, when the gold showed a cost of nearly eight times its normal or face value.

**REPORT OF MISS NELLE A. BROWNLEE'S
EVANGELISTIC WORK AMONG WOMEN.**

To the Board of Foreign Missions of the Covenanter Church:

I beg to submit herewith my annual report of my work in the Tak Hing district for the year ending December 31, 1919.

At the beginning of the year 1919 I found myself confronting a practically unexplored field so far as continuous systematic work among women was concerned. This statement does not include Tak Hing itself or the villages immediately surrounding, for these villages have been worked by some of the foreign women and also by members of the Tak Hing congregation; but of the strip of territory extending from Fung Tsuen, several miles above Do Sing, to Uet Shing, the limit of our territory on the East, I seemed unable to learn of any regular work being done among women. At Do Sing a girls' school was being opened by one of our Christian girls but I found nothing in the line of evangelism for women. At Do Sing some of the women had a knowledge of the Bible, having, as girls, come under the influence of Doctor Jean McBurney and Mrs. Mitchell, but these women, not having learned character, could not continue Bible study after our teachers were withdrawn. At other stations, both above and below Do Sing, I found many who had come in touch with the Gospel through the medical work of Doctor Wright, Doctor Jean McBurney and Doctor Kate McBurney, and these were eager to know more of the Light. At two stations below Do Sing I found students who had become interested in the Gospel through the influence of Miss Adams and Miss Huston, and these had been instrumental in leading some to desire Christian teaching but neither at Do Sing nor at any of these other villages was any regular work being done among women.

Finding it difficult to secure defi-

nite information concerning women's work in the outlying territory, I decided to work in the nearby villages only until the weather should permit an exploration of the territory, and then visit the district with a view to planning a work among women to be opened in the year 1920.

In February, 1919, I engaged as carrier, a former Biblewoman, and with her help opened a work at four nearby villages. Long Kan Shek Shi had been opposed to the Gospel but prejudice seemed to gradually give way to interest and at the end of three months five children at Long Kan had committed the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Three Character Classic. The average attendance at Long Kan for the three months was 21. At Shek Shi, the other village, the women were interested in a study of the Doctrine and several have attended service at the chapel since. Some from both of these villages have been to the hospital for healing within the year and two women from Long Kan have registered as inquirers. The average attendance at Bible study for Shek Shi was 17.

At Taai Paan Loh, a gambling village, the men seemed antagonistic to the Gospel at first but later gave encouragement to the women and girls to study, and often stood outside the house to listen to the reading and singing. Two lepers at Taai Paan Loh have accepted Gospels and one has asked for baptism.

At Saai Waan a class was conducted for three months. The children were especially diligent in memorizing. Five, including one eight-year-old, memorized the Three Character Class, Four Character Classic, the Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, a grace to say at meals, and many Scripture texts. The attendance averaged *forty* for three months. These

are in range of chapel teaching but could not be persuaded to attend Sabbath service. I could learn no reason for their non-attendance at chapel service other than that parents were unwilling for the children to take time from work for Sabbath observance.

Mrs. Adams assisted with a class which averaged *ten* in attendance at the home of Chan A Kung, the "Brownie," on Sabbath afternoons. The attendance included few women and seldom any from the home in which it was conducted. Two or three unusually promising children made our work in behalf of these people a joy and the spirituality of the little Brownie is an inspiration ever.

With a carrier, who also did Bible work, I covered by boat during the two months of June, July and a part of August, a territory extending from five miles above Do Sing, down the river as far as Luk To. We also walked out overland for several miles on either side of the river and held meetings in the farming villages. We entered and held meetings in thirty villages in this strip of territory and at every place found the people interested in the Gospel. At no village did we meet any who had accepted Christ as a personal Saviour but at most of these villages the people had heard of the Gospel and many had seen a foreigner.

Twenty-three Christian books were sold but no Gospels were called for. We talked the Doctrine at every village but never asked the people to buy books as it was our first trip out, and we were anxious that the people know we were not out for money. At most places they asked as soon as we entered the village what we were selling and many thought we were silk merchants. At one place we were thought to be tree robbers and at several villages they thought we were medicine men, but never were we

taken for wine or tobacco merchants, though they thought at one village we must be oil agents.

Taking the territory covered as a basis upon which to reckon the number of villages and population in the river territory from east to west in our district I should say the villages that could be reached by boat, including a walk of eight or ten miles into the country on either side of the river, would number one hundred, at least, and the population run from seventy-five to one thousand. Four or five villages can be covered in one day and the easiest and cheapest way of reaching the villages would seem to be by boat with sleeping and eating accommodations at the boat.

I found myself unable to take a vacation this year at the time I have previously done, so arranged a short vacation at my own station in company with a friend from Canton. In the latter part of November I also ascended the winding Lo Ting river in company with Doctor and Mrs. Dickson, Doctor McBurney and Miss Smith, all splendid scouts, and spent one week in Lo Ting visiting friends, visiting the school and hospital there, and attended the women's conference. After these pleasant and refreshing experiences I start out upon the new year with good health, renewed energy and greater trust in Him who is able to "do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end."

Respectfully submitted.

Just so daily Bible reading, prayer and service keep the fire of consecration going steadily, making the leading a Christian life, according to our vow, an unalloyed pleasure and blessed privilege—Selected.

Keep the home (altar) fires burning should be the practice of every Christian.

A SUMMARY OF OUR MISSION WORK IN ASIA MINOR DURING THE GREAT WAR.

By REV. A. J. MCFARLAND.

Belle Center, O., March 26, 1920.

Dear Dr. Willson:

Lest you may fail to receive any report from our Tarsus Mission in time to make up your report for Synod and in view of the fact that no proper report has been received from there for a number of years on account of war conditions I will try to give you some idea of the work as it has been conducted during these years of silence. But you will understand that this is entirely informal as I am not authorized by the Mission to speak for them nor will the Mission have any opportunity to review or revise what I have written.

I think our last report showed a membership in our three stations of 99 communicants and an attendance in the schools of about 400. These figures must be reduced some now, but the surprise is that they have not been reduced more, considering the experiences through which our people have passed, the ruthless conscriptions for the army, the life of slavery the Christian lived in the Turkish army, the cruel deportations, the desperate struggle for bread made more desperate by the heartless discrimination of the government in favor of the ruling class, the Turkish moslems, and especially the officials of that class, and the constant terror inspired by martial law administered by the haughty Turk. Just before leaving on furlough I assisted the Rev. R. E. Willson in holding a communion at each of the three stations and the

number who communed totaled 74, about equally divided among the three places. And as there were at least a dozen more members who were not able to be present the net loss for the war period would seem to be about 13. And we know none of these were by defection but practically all by death, the rest by removal out of bounds of our church. Three of them died in exile, one being our teacher at Adana, who left a wife and several small children to be cared for by the Mission. Our esteemed evangelist who was exiled with him has returned with a fine story to tell of the Lord's faithful and marvelous care which we hope to give to the Church press in the near future.

Our schools at Mersina and Tarsus were kept going all through the war and with better attendance than usual owing to the closing of most of the native Christian schools. The last year of the war we were unable to have school at the Mission in Mersina as our rooms, including our chapel, were requisitioned for a military hospital, but we managed to gather a goodly number of children into the homes of two of our teachers and thus keep our record unbroken, and furnish employment also for our teachers. But on the announcement of the armistice, or rather of the offer of an armistice, I was summoned to the presence of the local commandant of the army and informed that he had orders to vacate our school rooms at once and we were at liberty to open school there as soon as we wished. And the order was obeyed more promptly than I ever saw an order obeyed in Turkey before. When I got back to the Mission, wagons were already at the door prepared to haul away some of the hospital equipment. We lost no time in cleaning out the rooms and opening school and although handicapped by the absence of all our missionary teachers and, at the beginning, of some of our best native teachers, we had one of our best years for attendance and income

from tuition, so eager were the people to learn some English in anticipation of British or American occupation. There has been a decided falling off in attendance this last year, both at Mersina and Tarsus, due in part to the superior attractions offered at many schools which have opened with flying colors under French patronage and French occupation. But the lowering of the standard in our schools, through the loss by death of our best teacher at Tarsus and by the lure of higher remuneration in business of our best teacher at Mersina, has contributed also to this falling off in attendance, for the American Board away applicants frequently, although school at Adana is full and turning charging a much higher tuition than we ever asked.

Medical work during these years has been restricted largely to what could be done in the hospital and clinic in co-operation with the Turkish army medical officials, or rather in spite of their constant interference as they endeavored to show their authority. Early in the war the hospital was opened as a Red Cross hospital but later it was conducted more as a private hospital until, when America joined the Allies, it was enlarged by the addition of our school rooms and chapel, and under more manifest direction of Turkish officials, although our doctor was still nominally in charge and managed to exert a fair amount of actual control in spite of them. Great numbers of the poor slaves from the Turkish army received all the help which our skillful Dr. Peoples and his efficient Armenian nurse could give them under these untoward circumstances. A part of the time the last year of the war there were more than 100 beds, and all occupied, while many besides received treatment at the daily clinic. On the announcement of the armistice the hospital was closed and has not yet been reopened. The Doctor's time has been taken up largely with the armies of occupation, especially the

British, who seemed to rely on him largely for all kinds of information and advice and correspondence with native officials and workmen. With it all he has managed to keep up a small clinic and treat some in their homes, and since the British left he has opened a weekly clinic in Tarsus on the earnest solicitation of the people there.

Evangelistic services have been conducted with a good degree of regularity and fair attendance notwithstanding many difficulties. The deportation of both the evangelist and teacher from Adana left the little company there rather destitute but except during the last year of the war I was able to meet with them monthly and that year the son of the evangelist, who is one of our teachers at Mersine, was able to be with them and conduct the weekly services, as his help was not needed at Mersine while our rooms were used as hospital.

Our faithful evangelist at Tarsus, Muallim Michael, was kept by the power of God through many trials and dangers and enabled to encourage the hearts of the poor people there without interruption. The reading room had to be closed but his other work went on much as usual and he has made a good name for himself among all the sects by his quiet life of loving service.

We were able to keep up the services at Mersina, with the help of the teachers, even when our chapel was occupied by the hospital, by holding services in the home of our Bible woman, and until America entered the war we made frequent visits to Adana and Tarsus to encourage the brethren there. After that we managed to keep in touch with them by correspondence and by having the Tarsus evangelist to visit us occasionally for a conference at Mersina as we could not obtain permission to leave the city until the armistice was declared.

The past year services have been conducted at all the stations as before

the war and a communion was held at each place, and they were visited occasionally by the missionaries, Rev. R. E. Willson and myself, notwithstanding the attention required by the extra relief work during the year.

The work of the American Near East Relief Committee called for our co-operation not only at Mersina but in the regions beyond. Rev. R. E. Willson represented the committee in such business as required attention in Mersina, and particularly in the landing and disposal of a ship load of coal brought in as a relief measure to help the local factories to reopen. Mrs. Willson, with the help of the other ladies, conducted some industrial work for poor women and distributed some clothing to the more needy. Mrs. McFarland yielded to the earnest entreaty of Dr. Chambers, of Adana, Relief Committee Director for the whole province of Adana, and Superintendent besides of American Board work for that whole region, work enough for about three ordinary men, and spent half her time during the summer in his office, assisting him with his correspondence and accounts. She had rendered him similar service during their joint sojourn in Switzerland, dividing her time between his office and that of our consulate there. So he knew what a help she could be. She accompanied me in the autumn to Kharne, where we had charge of an orphanage of 200 Armenian children until the committee could get a man and his wife out from the States to take charge of it. We were there two and a half months. I had also spent two months of the summer at Hadjin in giving some much-needed help to the ladies in charge of the relief work there. The committee was in such dire need of more help in our province that our Mission felt justified in lending them this aid for the

time in response to the urgent request of the almost distracted Director, Dr. Chambers.

On the arrival of the British army of occupation one of their Y. M. C. A. secretaries called and earnestly besought me to take the oversight of a small tea and reading room for their men, as he had no regular man to spare for the place since many had been demobilized already. Although my hands seemed pretty full with the regular work and the superintendence of the two schools we felt so glad to see the Tommies that we were ready to give them about anything they would ask, so with faith that help would be given we yielded and took on this additional responsibility. It was not long until Mrs. McFarland arrived and gave me greatly needed help, and we spent many pleasant evenings trying to make life a little less of a drudgery to the boys so far away from their homes. When I was called away to relief work in the interior, Rev. Willson took my place, and, in addition, conducted an English service in the chapel each Sabbath evening for any of the men who would come. The rooms were kept open all the time the British were with us, which was nearly a year.

We were all loath to part with Miss Sterrett, who had endeared herself to all who knew her, but since we must give her up we do not know any one to whom we would rather give her than "the beloved physician" of Latakia. Her going leaves Miss French quite lonely and with added responsibility as both schools are now under her direction, so we hope reinforcements in that department will be forthcoming very soon.

As to the future of the work we cannot say more than that the prospect is as bright as the promises of God. Just what the new conditions under which we will be called upon to work will be it is impossible to predict. But the appalling need remains and will remain until the Gospel triumphs there.

REPORT OF LO TING GIRLS' SCHOOL,

January, 1920.

By MISS JENNIE M. DEAN.

To the Board of Foreign Missions:

The year 1919 marks a big event in the history of the Lo Ting Girls' School, which is none less than the consummation of the new building, the happy realization of a six years' dream.

So keen was the anticipation and interest at the beginning of the year that we did not consider it hard to have the grammar grades and dormitory crowded into the first and second floors of our foreign dwelling. The primary department and kindergarten continued to hold forth in the rented building adjoining our former native building, the latter having given place to the new school veranda and playground. Our new building was sufficiently under way by the opening of the second semester to allow the dormitory to be moved into the third floor and the grammar grades into the second floor. Later, work on the building had to be suspended because of lack of funds, but not before it was possible to move first grade and kindergarten into the first floor.

To fully appreciate the joy of pupils and teachers on entering this spacious well-lighted, well-ventilated school building, one would need to have experienced with them the contrast in the old native quarters. One regret was that Miss Stewart was home on furlough at this auspicious time, and could not enjoy with us the sensation of our new environment, which privilege should have been hers after giving of herself so prodigally to the Lo Ting Girls' School these many years. However we know she is perfectly satisfied in our joy and her thrills will come later, on her return to us.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. Redpath, of Olathe, Kansas, whose generous contributions helped to make possible the new True Road Girls' School, also to Mr. J. K. Robb and

Mr. E. C. Mitchell, who gave so willingly of time and labor.

This three-story school building adjoining our three-story dwelling, with a big new ancestral temple across the street, makes this spot easily the skyscraper section of Lo Ting. The big bell presented by Second New York Sabbath School has been elevated to a prominent position and sends forth its peals several times a day, reminding the people of Lo Ting, and even surrounding villages, that the "Jesus doctrine" stands for the freedom of women and girls in China.

Our formal opening did not take place until December 31, when we held our graduation exercises in connection, making it a red-letter day, long to be remembered. The pupils got a great deal of pleasure out of this festive occasion, and generously contributed half of the expenses of the "cha-ooi" or tea-party. About three hundred responded to the red paper invitation. Numbers of the gentry and teachers and students of six of Lo Ting's leading schools were present, with congratulations, besides the local military official, who made an excellent address.

We were favored also by the presence of Mr. J. C. Mitchel, of Tak Hing, and Mr. C. G. Fuson, Executive Secretary of the Primary Board of Education of Canton, who was on a tour of inspection of mission schools, and who gave an address. The graduates numbered four from the grammar school, nine from the primary department, fourth year, and twelve from the kindergarten. Nineteen of these were present to receive diplomas. Again we deplored Miss Stewart's absence, as many of these graduates are in a special way monuments of her untiring efforts. Two of the grammar school graduates are daughters of the Lo Ting ex-evangelist, who let Satan so control him that

his love of money led him to sell his daughters in marriage, thereby breaking an agreement he made with Miss Stewart that if the church helped to educate them he would not engage them until two years after their graduation. Fortunately for one her engagement did not materialize, while that of the most promising daughter was consummated. This has cost her many a heartache, but has developed strong Christian character. She has the Lord on her side, and even Chinese custom does not compel her to marry, if she is not willing, since she is of an age to be consulted on the matter. She gives such promise of developing into a good teacher that we want to send her to the Normal in Canton next year.

This year marks another event, and our new building would have no charm at all had we not seen our children "walking in truth," but, praise His name! before the end of the year all of our pupils above the first grade, with the exception of four, and two of these were hindered by objecting parents, applied for baptism, and registered at the chapel as believers. They seemed to get comfort in going so far in confessing Christ before men, in spite of parental objection.

About a year ago each member of our Saturday evening prayer-meeting pledged herself to become responsible in prayer for one school girl, and lo, one Sabbath morning, at a Christian Endeavor consecration meeting, these very girls for whom we had been praying, and two more, decided to come out boldly for Christ. The names of these new converts were written up in our prayer room under the names of those who had prayed for them. These in turn became responsible for others in prayer, and as they are won, more names are posted.

Two girls were gathered into the fold during the year, and nine others were ready to go all the way in baptism and take the consequences of angry parents who refused to give consent. This is just the spirit we have been longing for in our girls,

and praise fills our hearts that their names are written in the Lamb's book of Life, even though denied baptism at present, since they are under sixteen years of age.

Mention should be made of the death of Cheung Sau Wa, who was our first graduate last year. She was from a proud aristocratic family, and had succeeded in steeling her heart against the gospel during her school days. She came home from Canton Government Normal last summer sick with tuberculosis, and was finally taken to the hospital in a dying condition. The Lord graciously gave her seventeen days there, in which to make peace with Him, and we greatly rejoice that the Lord had Dr. and Mrs. Dickson as mediums, through whom he revealed himself to this girl. We know that Sau Wa's triumphant entrance into the Heavenly home more than recompensed Dr. and Mrs. Dickson their denial of a vacation.

This report would be incomplete did the writer not testify to the great goodness of the Lord in giving back life last September, thereby giving another chance to better let *Him* work *His* works through me. Also to testify to the Christ-like ministrings of Drs. Dickson and Wallace, and Miss Smith in this trial. Only the great physician can compensate such service in His name. In this providence has been shown that the Great Teacher is managing the Lo Ting Girls' School and can work without his servant. Mrs. Dickson, though not very strong herself, after the strain of the summer, magnanimously came to the rescue, as did our Chinese teachers and older girls, and things went on very smoothly in spite of all these irregularities caused by my sickness, Miss Stewart's absence, and the resignation of our man science teacher. The Master graciously gave me a remarkably quick recovery, and I was particularly conscious of help in prayer, and praise God for all the intercessory friends He has prompted, both in China and in the homeland.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD AND NOTES OF THE WORKERS

Edited by MRS. FINDLEY M. WILSON, 2517 North Franklin Street,
Philadelphia, Penna.

There were six communions in the Tak Hing district in China this year.

* * * *

Rev. E. C. Mitchell baptized thirty-one Chinese last year.

* * * *

The proportion of Christians in our mission district in China is 1 to every 2654 of the population.

* * * *

A letter says that on March 8th Dr. Peoples was planning to leave Mersine for the States as soon as he found a good chance.

* * * *

The Stewarts and Miss Mearns were detained at Alexandria on their way home. Their arrival is daily expected.

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Every girl in the Girls' School at Tak Hing who is old enough is either a church member or an applicant for baptism.

* * * *

Miss Jean M. Barr has been appointed to Tak Hing and Miss Lillian L. McCracken to Lo Ting. Both young women have completed their work in the Canton Language School and are ready for active service.

* * * *

The Hospital Board at Lo Ting (Chinese), realizing the bad effect of gambling on the community, sent a strong petition to the provincial government that it be stopped.

* * * *

It is with regret that the Board of Foreign Missions received the resignation of Rev. and Mrs. E. C. Mitchell. The state of Mrs. Mitchell's health makes the possibility of their return to China very uncertain.

After one of her health talks on germs, and worms, and parasites, during an itinerating tour, Dr. Kate McBurney gave a spiritual turn to the talk by asking, "Are there germs that attack the soul?" The instant answer, "Yes, sins are the germ of the soul," delighted the speaker. After a spirited questionnaire on this subject, the question came, "Does the nation have germs?" A smile, a pause, and then they decided, "The Japanese are the germs that are eating the life out of China."

* * * *

Have you heard of the paralytic woman from Uet Shing who some years ago was carried into the hospital at Tak Hing but soon after was able to walk? She came back to the Woman's School this year with a dollar to help pay her way. After the summer vacation she came again, bringing five others with her who believed her good news about Jesus and wanted to learn more. They could stay only one month but all applied for baptism and the session was astonished at the wisdom of their replies. They expect to return later for baptism. This is the result of the testimony of one poor, ignorant, paralytic woman over fifty years old.

* * * *

The Victrola presented to Rev. and Mrs. Kempf by the Second New York Congregation this fall as a farewell gift when they were returning to China, is being enjoyed by both the missionaries and the Chinese. The Postmaster and his wife and three children were calling one afternoon. Mrs. Kempf says: "It would have made the members of the Second New York Congregation feel that they had

made a wise choice of a gift if they could have seen the interest of their eight-year-old boy. He went to the machine, put his ear down to the slats to listen and then tried to look through the slats to see where the music came from."

Many of you have seen wheat growing but I doubt if you have seen it cared for in the way it is done just outside the houses on the river front in Tak Hing. Every few feet you will see a long bamboo pole or branch from a tree or bush, with a red paper or an old rag tied on the top for a scare crow. Beside this, the wife of the man who has rented the land, his mother, mother-in-law, sister-in-law and other relatives besides several children stand around watching it and yelling and shouting. Why do they yell and shout? It is to scare the rice birds away. A number of them will light down upon the wheat, then some of the watchers will run and shout and the birds will fly to another place just a few feet away. They are most persistent and it keeps the women and children busy yelling and shouting from morning to night."

* * * *

Latakia, Syria, April 9, 1920.

I know that you will be interested in hearing how our Biblewoman has begun her work. I had wanted her to get into the work as soon as possible after the beginning of the year, but she had been asked to help superintend the Relief sewing room during January and February, and as I was away part of that time, so she could not begin visiting until early in March. The work with the women in the workroom and that in the Sabbath School woman's class which she had undertaken, was a good introduction, however, to the new work, as she became acquainted with a number of women who afterward welcomed her into their homes.

I accompanied her three days the first week, and we had most encouraging gatherings; in every house we

visited there was a welcome. The neighbors were gathered in to hear, and there were many invitations given to come regularly. Days when I could not go she went to some houses near her home in one or two of which she was known and she said everywhere the women were glad to see her. In several houses almost immediately they asked if she had not the Book with her, in others a little talk soon brought the request to read. Then she would talk to them about the lesson bringing it home to their own peculiar circumstances and needs. Several times it was said to us, "Come to us often, we are so ignorant and there is no one to teach us about these things." Mrs. Malik is taking a deep interest in the women and the work as is good to see. A woman who has herself known sorrow and trial, and who knows the Christian's consolation, she is welcome where there are sorrowful and burdened hearts. A few Moslem women have been at some of these darkened homes.

There are some who have come into the church lately, who are much in need of further instruction in the faith and I think Mrs. Malik will be a great help to them. She is thoroughly acquainted with her Bible and apt with quotations and very quickly turns conversation to spiritual things. We are greatly encouraged by the beginning of this work; will you not be instant in prayer for your Bible worker that she may have the guidance of the Holy Spirit and may be the means of leading many to the light and to a true and saving faith in Christ. I am so glad and thankful that God has given us one who is so fitted for this work that has been so much on my heart. I shall write again as the work goes on.

Pray much for your worker and so sustain her hands.

MAGGIE B. EDGAR.

To rest content with results achieved is the first sign of business decay.

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

Edited by MRS. J. S. MARTIN and MRS. M. E. METHENY,
College Hill, Beaver Falls, Pa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF TEXT BOOKS FOR 1920-1921.

THE BIBLE AND MISSIONS.

By HELEN BARRETT MONTGOMERY

Chapter I. The Missionary Message of the Old Testament.

Chapter II. The Missionary Message of the New Testament.

Chapter III. Every Man in His Own Tongue.

Chapter IV. The Travels of the Book.

Chapter V. The Influence of the Book on the Nations.

Chapter VI. The Leaves of the Tree.

The foreign mission text-book published by the Central Committee for use next year is entitled "The Bible and Missions." Its author is Helen Barrett Montgomery, the writer of three of the study books previously issued by the committee. The book is divided into two parts. Part I deals with the Bible as itself the great Mission Study Text Book. In chapter one the missionary message of the Old Testament is outlined; in chapter two that of the New Testament. In both chapters it is shown that the Bible offers itself as a book for mankind, as a message of salvation from the God of the whole earth.

The remaining four chapters of the book deal with various phases of the Bible's contribution to the missionary enterprise. Chapter three deals with the story of the great translators, whose work made it possible for the Bible to be read in their own tongues by almost all races of men. Chapter four tells the story and describes the work of the great Bible societies, through whom the Bible has been printed and distributed to every part of the world. The fifth chapter discusses the effect which the Bible has

had upon law, government and literature in all lands to which it has come. The last chapter shows that the introduction of the Bible into a country inevitably produces a demand for Christian literature. The need of the great non-Christian lands for Christian literature is described, and the efforts now being made to meet this need are indicated.

It is most remarkable that the Central Committee publishes this book, on its twentieth anniversary, and that it falls on the year chosen as Bible year. Surely God has led in the preparation of this remarkable book. The price of this book in paper covers, 40c.; postage, 7c. Cloth covers, 60c.; postage, 7c.

"Lamp Lighters Across the Sea," by Margaret T. Applegarth, is the book for study in Junior Mission Societies.

Chapter I. Handing Down the Big Little Library.

Chapter II. The Book the Cobbler Made.

Chapter III. Behind Closed Windows.

Chapter IV. The Book Fished Out of the Water.

Chapter V. Answering the Giant Question Mark.

Chapter VI. Speaking Their Language.

Those who know Miss Applegarth's charming style will long to put this book in the hands of all children. It is not only a book for study in Junior Mission Societies, it should be in every Sabbath School Library in the church.

If this generation of children could be taught the Word of God we might hope to reconstruct this nation which has so sadly wandered from the ideals of our Christian forefathers.

Price, paper covers, 35c.; postage, 4c.; Cloth covers, 60c., postage, 7c.

These books can be purchased from
M. H. Leavis, West Medford, Mass.

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Superintendent of Literature, Pitts-
burgs Presbyterial.

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT.

Dear Boys and Girls:

We have been studying about the Chinese, now I want to tell you a little about a real Mission band of which I know. You know there are not so many Chinese women and children in America as there are men, and most of the ones in this country are in San Francisco and New York. Lately more have been coming to Pittsburgh.

Here in Pittsburgh are some cousins of Jon Gee's. They have been here longer than Jon Gee and her mother. The oldest girl is 13 or 14. Her name is Shang Tai or Victoria. Her family name is "Yee," just as is her cousin's. Besides Victoria, there is a boy about eight or nine and several smaller children.

Now this Mission band through their superintendent, has induced Victoria to attend their Junior meetings on Sabbath and stay for Sabbath School. They are hoping, through this little girl to reach others; at least they are trying to impress upon her that she should carry home to her family and friends all that she learns.

Not every Mission Band has such an opportunity as this, but these children seem to have caught the vision of the Master, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." May we not argue well for the future of our bands as we see how they endeavor to fulfill the Master's command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Heeding also, as they have, His injunction to "begin at Jerusalem."

It behooves us, as Covenanters, to be up and doing. "Americanization" is the watchword of today, but this does not include "Christianization." Let us hold aloft the torch of this

larger purpose and ourselves and the forefront. Who is your neighbor? Who needs a helping hand? Chinese, Syrian, Jew, the colored people, Italians, etc.; the great army of those at our door are looking to us that they may know not only America's language, but "*The Christ*," theirs as well as ours. Let us catch the "Vision." Let us do our part. God will give the increase.

MARY A. MCWILLIAMS.

THE Y. W. C. A. OF GENEVA COLLEGE.

By VERA FAY DAVIS, Geneva, '21.

The purpose of the Association shall be to unite women of the institution in loyalty to Jesus Christ, to build them up in knowledge of Christ, especially through Bible study and Christian service, that their character and conduct may be constant with their belief. It shall thus associate them with the students of the world for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. It shall further seek to enlist their devotion to the Christian Church and the religious work of the institution.

During the year 1919-20 the Young Women's Christian Association of Geneva College has endeavored faithfully to live up to her pledge. She has done this through the co-operation of each member under the leadership of the Cabinet officers. There were sixty-six members enrolled, thirty-four of whom were new members.

This year was a hard one in which to work, on account of the recency in which the S. A. T. C. was here, when the old order and regime were given up to it. But, nevertheless, the committees have done good work, and much good, we feel, has been accomplished through this year's work "One hundred dollars in the treasury" was the goal set by the Finance Committee, and at the close of the financial year in April, the treasurer reported \$100.13 in deposit. The Social Serv-

ice Committee aided very much with the copying of the vital statistics records, and in canvassing for the Red Cross. Plans were made for Americanization work, but on account of unavoidable reasons, had to be abandoned. The Social Committees of the Y. M. and Y. W. C. A. began their work as soon as college opened last fall with the thousand-mile walk. This is a get-together party for the new and old students, and always affords a great deal of fun. A masked Halloween party was enjoyed by all. In December a County Fair was held in the main building. There were several booths where handwork, Japanese pictures and novelties and candy were sold; while in several class rooms "side shows" were staged. This fair proved to be quite a success, and will probably become an annual event. In the early fall the Y. W. gave a tea in the McKee Hall parlors for the new girls; and at another time one was given in honor of the down-town girls. After the football games and debates receptions were held, which were appreciated very much by the teams.

THE RESULT OF IGNORING GOD

By MRS. M. E. METHENY.

In the fifth chapter of the "Crusade of Compassion for the Healing of the Nations," in writing of the effect of the war on missions in Syria, the author says "We hear of the new day that has dawned upon the people who sat in darkness, and in the shadow of death, bound with affliction and iron. Everywhere can be seen signs of reviving courage, initiative and energy. Peace, security, prosperity are manifested even now."

How shortsighted we are, and how little we know of the future! Only last year were these words written, and the opening article in the May number of the "Missionary Review of the World," says "Western Asia, stretching from the Aegean sea to the Caspian, and from the Caucasian

Mountains to the Persian Gulf, is in a state of unrest more alarming and disorganized than ever before during the last century."

Many of the towns of the interior have been given over to pillage and slaughter. "The interior of Anatolia and Asia Minor is in a state of alarming unrest." Missionary work is made more difficult than before the war. What was supposed to be a war for the liberation of the oppressed, has become a fight for territory.

The republics of Georgia, Aberaijan and Armenia are not even at peace with one another. None is armed, and all are in danger from the Bolsheviks.

Constantinople is still a bone of contention. More than one of the Allies claims it. We at home, who are ever ready to offer panaceas, have such hazy ideas of geography that we fail to understand the situation. One who knows says "Military occupation of the city would have about as much effect on the pacification of the country as the military occupation of Portland, Maine, would have on a riotous strike in San Francisco."

The French propose to withdraw their claim on Cilicia and Lower Armenia ("let him that readeth understand"). But they must have Syria because of its wealth of cotton, silk and wheat. The people count for nothing. This decision shatters the hope of a united and protected Armenia in her ancestral home.

America has held for months the key to a situation which for its perplexing and downright peril has not been surpassed, or hardly equaled, by any other post-war question. The entire country is covered by American missionaries and workers under the Near East relief. These seem to be the only ones who are caring for the afflicted and stricken people. America cannot wash her hands of responsibility. What shall we say in that day when He that sitteth upon the throne shall say "as ye did it not unto these ye did it not unto Me."

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